



Brigadier Johnny Torrens-Spence CBE

Brigadier Johnny Torrens-Spence joined the Army in 1971 and was commissioned into the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards before attending St Andrews University to study Botany.

He returned to regimental duties in 1977 and served with the regiment until 1984 as Platoon Commander, Company 2 i/c and then as a Company Commander; including a tenure as the Adjutant of the North Irish Horse, a British Army Territorial unit; and as a member of the 1980 Joint Services Expedition to Ellesmere Island in the Canadian High Arctic.

After a year long military technology course in the UK, he attended the Indian Staff College in 1985 gaining a Masters degree in International Relations. This was followed by a series of staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence, mostly involving equipment, requirements definition and procurement. He commanded his regiment, newly amalgamated and renamed The Royal Dragoon Guards, in Germany from 1993 to 1995. After an assignment as Project Manager of the Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank procurement programme, he was appointed in 1997 as the first commander of the newly formed British Army Reconnaissance Brigade. More recently he was posted as the Military Attaché in Pakistan and with the British Embassy in Washington DC.

In his career he has served on operational tours in Cyprus, Northern Ireland (2) and Bosnia; the latter as Chief G3 of SFOR in 1998.

His book "Historic Battlefields of Pakistan" was published in 2006 and he is currently working on a biography of Abu Rayhan Al Biruni, a 10th Century Islamic scholar from Khiva in modern Uzbekistan. Married with 3 children, his hobbies include: fishing, hill-walking, military history and most definitely not golf!